

Claims

- [c1] 1. A traction device comprising:
- a body formed of a flexible and compressible material having a forefoot portion and a lower leg portion, oppositely-disposed anterior and posterior regions, oppositely-disposed lateral regions, a continuous cavity within the forefoot and lower leg portions, an interior surface within the cavity, and an anterior opening located in the anterior region and sized to permit a patient's foot and lower leg to pass therethrough into the cavity, the cavity within the lower leg and forefoot portions being sized and shaped to support respectively a patient's lower leg above a bed on which the patient reclines and the patient's foot extending in an upright position and so that the patient's heel is suspended within the cavity and heel and malleolar pressure are reduced; means for adjustably closing the anterior opening; and traction straps removably attached to the lateral regions of the body and extending from the forefoot portion of the body;
- wherein the interior surface of the body provides a sufficiently high friction interface with the patient's lower leg to prevent sliding of the body on the patient's lower leg

when the anterior opening is closed by the closing means and a traction tension of 45 N is applied through the traction straps.

- [c2] 2. The traction device according to claim 1, wherein the traction straps define a loop.
- [c3] 3. The traction device according to claim 2, further comprising a traction bar secured to the loop of the traction straps.
- [c4] 4. The traction device according to claim 3, further comprising a traction rope secured to the traction bar.
- [c5] 5. The traction device according to claim 1, wherein the adjustably closing means comprises straps releasably attached to the lateral regions of the body.
- [c6] 6. The traction device according to claim 1, wherein one of the lateral regions of the body is larger than the other of the lateral regions and is sufficiently sized to cover at least an anterior portion of the patient's lower leg.
- [c7] 7. The traction device according to claim 1, further comprising means for reducing friction on the posterior region of the body to promote sliding movement of the body on the bed on which the patient reclines.
- [c8] 8. The traction device according to claim 1, further com-

prising means for stiffening the posterior region of the body to inhibit buckling of the body between the forefoot and lower leg portions thereof.

[c9] 9. The traction device according to claim 1, further comprising a separate support cushion within the cavity of the body, the support cushion being located within the lower leg portion of the body for supporting the patient's lower leg within the cavity and suspending the patient's heel within the cavity.

[c10] 10. The traction device according to claim 9, wherein the support cushion is formed of a flexible and compressible material.

[c11] 11. The traction device according to claim 9, further comprising means for securing the support cushion to the interior surface within the lower leg portion of the body.

[c12] 12. The traction device according to claim 1, further comprising a separate support pad and means for releasably securing the support pad to one of the lateral regions of the body to inhibit rolling of the patient's lower leg.

[c13] 13. A traction device comprising:
a unitary body formed of a flexible, compressible foam

material having integral forefoot and lower leg portions, oppositely-disposed anterior and posterior regions, oppositely-disposed lateral regions, a continuous cavity within the forefoot and lower leg portions, an interior surface within the cavity, and an anterior opening located in the anterior region and sized to permit a patient's foot and lower leg to pass therethrough into the cavity, the cavity within the lower leg and forefoot portions being sized and shaped to support respectively a patient's lower leg above a bed on which the patient reclines and the patient's foot extending in an upright position;

means for adjustably closing the anterior opening;

traction straps removably attached to the lateral regions of the body and extending from the forefoot portion of the body;

means for reducing friction on the posterior region of the body to promote sliding movement of the boot on the bed on which the patient reclines;

means for stiffening the posterior region of the body to inhibit buckling of the boot between the forefoot and lower leg portions thereof; and

a support cushion within the cavity of the body, the support cushion being located within the lower leg portion of the body for supporting the patient's lower leg within the cavity and suspending the patient's heel within the

cavity so that heel and malleolar pressure are substantially absent;

wherein the interior surface of the body provides a sufficiently high friction interface with the patient's lower leg to prevent sliding of the body on the patient's lower leg when the anterior opening is closed by the closing means and a traction tension of 45 N is applied through the traction straps.

[c14] 14. The traction device according to claim 13, wherein the traction straps define a loop.

[c15] 15. The traction device according to claim 14, further comprising a traction bar secured to the loop of the traction straps.

[c16] 16. The traction device according to claim 15, further comprising a traction rope secured to the traction bar.

[c17] 17. The traction device according to claim 13, wherein the adjustably closing means comprises straps releasably attached to the lateral regions of the body.

[c18] 18. The traction device according to claim 13, wherein one of the lateral regions of the body is larger than the other of the lateral regions and is sufficiently sized to cover at least an anterior portion of the patient's lower leg.

[c19] 19. The traction device according to claim 13, wherein the support cushion is formed of a flexible, compressible foam material.

[c20] 20. The traction device according to claim 13, further comprising a support pad and means for releasably securing the support pad to one of the lateral regions of the body to inhibit rolling of the patient's lower leg.